Christian Reyes

“Beholding”, a passage by Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, talks about the topic of staring and how it can lead to both a positive and negative effect on the starees. Rosemarie begins by telling the readers that we should focus on how to stare and to be stared at. Her main focus is to give us an understanding that we shouldn’t stare in a negative way or for the wrong reasons but to give out a positive stare. For example the quote “Even though Sontag (author she has been quoting to help her explain her article) maintains that the urge to stare at human pain, death, and disability is a ‘despised impulse,’ she nonetheless claims that staring can be redeemed by a proper response.” (200) Rosemarie explains that negative staring is thinking to yourself that “This is not going to happen to me” when staring at someone with a disability or in need. A positive stare is more of an admiration of someone’s beauty. Rosemarie also mentions that there are people who are basically visual activists who are “putting themselves in the public eye saying ‘look at me’ instead of done stare.’” These people want to be seen in a positive way as they are proud of how they look and are using this confidence in hopes of erasing that stare of negativity. Finally Rosemarie is giving a better view of the reasons why people stare, how they affect others, how we should stare and give examples of people who want to be seen and not stared at.